

2025-2026
National Leagues & National Cups

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Rule 13.7 (Ireland Water Polo Book)

13.7 Scoring

Winners of a fixture shall be awarded three points. A draw shall be awarded one point to each team. Where teams are tied with the same number of points in the final points table and where a decision must be reached in relation to final positions, it shall be decided as follows:

- a) The team which has gained the most points in matches between the teams shall be ranked higher.
- b) If the teams are still tied, the team with the largest difference between goals scored for and against in results between the teams shall be ranked higher.
- c) If the teams are still tied, the team having scored the higher number of goals in matches between the teams will be ranked higher.
- d) If there is still a tie, then the team with the largest difference between goals scored for and against in all matches shall be ranked higher.
- e) If the teams are still tied, the team having scored the higher number of goals in all matches will be ranked higher.
- f) If the teams are still tied, a playoff match shall be played.

Appendix 2 – Summary of Key World Aquatics Rule Changes

1. Possession Time (4.1.1 – World Aquatics)

- The maximum ball possession time has been extended from twenty-five (25) seconds to twenty-eight (28) seconds for both men's and women's competitions.
- For the avoidance of doubt, all possession clock "resets" will similarly be extended to twenty-eight (28) seconds.

2. Second Possession Time (8.12.a & c – World Aquatics)

- If the ball rebounds to the same team following a shot on net, the maximum ball possession time shall be eighteen (18) seconds rather than fifteen (15) seconds.
- When the ball is put into play following an exclusion foul, the maximum ball possession time shall be eighteen (18) seconds rather than 15 seconds.
- This rule change is applicable to both men's and women's competitions.

3. Third Personal Foul

- There is no longer a requirement that a player, upon receiving a third personal foul, must sit in a specific designated area near the bench.
- In Ireland Water Polo, this is also up to the discretion of the Referees.

All other World Aquatics Rules can be found on the Swim Ireland Water Polo website – [here](#).

Summary of World Aquatics Rule Changes we will not be implementing

1. Break Interval Timing (4.2 – World Aquatics)

- The break interval between the second and third periods has been extended from three (3) minutes to five (5) minutes

2. Coach's Challenge Review (20.10 Appendix 10 – World Aquatics)

- The referee(s) shall have a maximum time-limit of two (2) minutes to review the footage and make a decision

3. Signalling a Coach's Challenge (20.10 Appendix 10 – World Aquatics)

- To signal a Coach's Challenge, a coach must (i) throw the designated green flag into the Field of Play and (ii) make the VAR square-signal hand gesture (the motion of creating a square with one's index fingers).

There is no longer a requirement for a coach to press a timeout button or use a horn to signal a Coach's Challenge.

Appendix 4 – Appendix 20.9.1.11 (World Aquatics Rule Book)

20.9.1.11.1.1 Tie Breaking Rules, Group phase or Round Robin Tournaments

20.9.1.11.1.1.1 If two (2) teams shall have equal points, further classification shall be established as follows: The team winning the game between them (including penalty shoot-out if any) shall be placed higher. If there is more than one tie in a group, the highest placed tie shall be determined first.

20.9.1.11.1.1.2 If three (3) or more teams shall have equal points, further classification shall be established as follows: The results among the tied teams shall determine which team is placed highest. If, at any time during the application of the procedure, the number of tied teams is reduced to two (2), then the above procedure (1.2.1., tie between two teams) shall be used to determine which of the two (2) remaining teams is placed higher.

The comparison shall be made:

First, upon the points of the games among the tied teams. second, the goal difference (excluding the goals from penalty shoot-out) among the tied teams, third, based upon goals scored among tied teams. If still tied, the games played against the highest placed team (or teams, if tied, the team or teams not involved in the tie) shall be considered. The first comparison shall be based on goal difference, and if still tied, then based on goals scored.

If still tied, the results against the next highest placed team (or teams, if tied) shall be used in succession until all results have been considered. If still tied, and there is no practical manner to determine the ranking, the final classification between the teams in the tie shall be decided by coin-toss. If there is more than one tie in a group, the highest placed tie shall be determined first. For the purpose of calculating either goal difference or goals scored, the goals in any penalty shoot-out will not be taken into consideration.